

legitimate philosophical investigation. Mr. Darwin after 20 years of the closest study and research published his views. and it is sufficient to say that they instantly fixed the attention of mankind throughout the civilized world. That the efforts of a single mind should have arrived at success on a subject of such vast scope. and encompassed with such difficulties. was more than could have been reasonably expected. and I am far from thinking that Charles Darwin has made out his case. But he has treated it with such power, and ~~abundantly~~ in such a philosophical spirit, and truth-seeking spirit, and illustrated it with such a vast amount of original & collated observation, as fairly to have brought the subject within the bounds of rational scientific research. I consider this great Essay on Genetic Biology to constitute a strong additional claim on behalf of Mr. Darwin for the Copley medal.

In forming an estimate of the value and extent of Mr. Darwin's researches, due regard ought to be had to the circumstances under which they ~~were~~ <sup>have been</sup> carried out. a profluence of unrelenting disease. which has lately left him not more than one or two hours of the day. which he could call his own.

Yours sincerely  
D. S. Sharpey  
DSI  
H. D. S.

Pé. Zorn et Garonne.

Montauban 25 Oct. 1864.

My Dear Sharpey.

Butt and myself have made every effort to be back in London by the 27<sup>th</sup> inst. but we have been persecuted by mishaps - through the break down of train diligences. &c. - so that we have been badly put out of our reckoning - and have lost some of the main objects that brought us round by this part of France. none of which were idle or unimportant.

Butt started yesterday for Paris from Brimfield. to make sure of being present at the meeting of the R. Council on Thursday. He will tell you that there were strong reasons for my remaining behind him. But as I seconded the proposal of Mr. Darwin for the Copley medal, in default of my presence at the first meeting, I beg that you will express my great regret to the President & Council, at not being there. and that I am very reluctantly detained. I shall certainly be in London (D.V.) by the second meeting on the 3<sup>rd</sup> prox. Meanwhile, I solicit the favor of being heard, through you, respecting the grounds upon which I seconded Mr. Darwin's nomination for the

D. S. Sharpey  
D. S. S.



Copley Medal.

Referring to the classified list - which I drew up - of Mr Darwin's Scientific labours, ranging through the wide field of 1. Geology, 2. Physical Geography; 3. Zoology; 4. Physiological Botany; 5. Genetic Biology, and to the power with which he has investigated whatever light he has taken of, "nihilum non tetigit quod non conavit" - I am of opinion that Mr Darwin is not only one of the most eminent naturalists of his day, but that hereafter he will be regarded as one of the Great Naturalists of all Countries and of all time.

His early work on the Structure and Distribution of Coral Reefs, constitutes an era in the investigation of the subject. As a monographic labour it may be compared with Dr. Vell's Essay upon Sew, as original, Exhaustive, & complete. - combining the closest observations with large and important generalizations.

Among Zoologists, his monographs upon the Balanidae & Lepadidae, Dofle and recent, in the Palaeontographical and Ray Societies' publications, are held to

be models of their kind.

In Physiological Botany, his recent researches, upon the <sup>certain</sup> summarization of the genital organs in plants, embodied in his papers in the Museum Journal, on Primula, Linum, & Lytium, are of the highest order of importance. They open a new mine of observation upon a field which has been barely struck upon before. The same remark applies to his researches on the structure and various adaptations of the orchideous flower, to a definite object connected with the impregnation of the plants through the agency of insects, with foreign pollen. There has not yet been time for their due influence being felt in the advancement of the Science. But on either subject they constitute an advance per saltum. - I need not dwell upon the value of his Geological Researches, which was for him one of the earlier awards of the "Wollaston Medal" from the Geological Society. The best of judges on this point. And lastly Mr Darwin's Great Essay on the Origin of Species by Natural Selection - this solemn & important subject had been either so lightly, or so grotesquely treated before, that it was hardly regarded as being within the bounds of



FALCONER, Hugh  
Botanist

MD

A. L. S. TO Dr. Sharpey  
dated Oct. 25th, 1864  
relating to Darwin